

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 1 - No. 18

Greensburg, Indiana

October 1, 1963

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Charles Allison- Kankakee,
Illinois
Mrs. Margaret Donnell Becker-
Cincinnati, Ohio
Mrs. Edwin D. Heid- Washington,
D. C.
Mr. J. A. McKim- Fort Wayne
Mrs. William Mosier- Dallas,
Texas
Mrs. Hobart Parmer
Mr. Melvin Robbins
Mr. Harold Styers
Mr. Thomas O. Thomson

Mr. Allison is related to the Apples and is identified with Adams township.....Mrs. Becker being a Donnell, one would guess, comes from Kingston..... Mrs. Heid is our President's beloved daughter, Jean Jarrard Heid..... Arthur McKim retired from G. E. is a native of and often visits in Greensburg..... Mrs. William Mosier to many of us, is the former Helen Brown of Brownsburg and Greensburg.

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1963

President-----Earl H. Jarrard
1st. Vice-President--Walter B. Lowe
2nd. Vice-President--
Mrs. Dorothy Doles
Corresponding Secy.--Mrs. Chas. Loucks
131 W. Central Ave.
Greensburg, Indiana
Recording Secy.--Miss Helen K. Bussell
711 N. East St.
Greensburg, Indiana
Treasurer-----William Parker

OCCASION: Fifth Annual Tour
DATE: Sunday afternoon
October 13, 1963
TIME: ~~2:00 P.M.~~ 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: Route of "THE UNDER-
GROUND RAILROAD"
through Fugit township.

The caravan will leave the home of the President, 125 North Michigan Avenue, near the Library, promptly at 2:00 P. M. and proceed East on Central Avenue, turning left at the Concrete Road, thence to Kingston and Clarksburg as shown on the map attached.

The points of interest will be marked as shown on the map. WATCH FOR THE NUMBERS. No stops will be made on the tour, however it will give everyone an opportunity to become better acquainted with THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD in the discussion to follow.

Mrs. C. H. Morrish will speak at the Kingston Presbyterian Church on this phase of our local history. Born near Kingston, well grounded in the lore of the area and keenly interested in the affairs of the Society- no one is better qualified to present the subject than Mrs. Morrish.

Members are asked to bring memorabilia typical of the Kingston area for display.

The Ladies of the Kingston Church will serve the traditional coffee and doughnuts during the social hour to follow.

NO TRANSPORTATION! No problem at all. Feel free to call the President. A way will be provided.

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU WISH!
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

Historical Society

OFFICE

INDIANAPOLIS & CINCINNATI RAILROAD CO.

Lawrenceburg
June 1st. 1857 (or 59)

Sir:

I wish you to commence as soon as possible and clean your section that is, all space between the fence or 40 feet each side of the center of the track of all the logs, sleepers, bushes and cut bushes of every description, pile them all up and burn them, so that when you get through your section will look as neatly as possible. Where there is a narrow embankment, you can take a portion of the old sleepers and lay them in the small ravines that have been made in the embankment by the water washing it away and when the bank is widened they will be covered up and help to hold the water on the bank- At 4 different points (as equally divided as possible) you can have a pile of old sleepers, say about 75 in each pile ready in case of an accident to use for blocking or any purpose that may be needed, for I want this all done and finished during this month, so that the entire road will be very neat by the 1st. of July. I will send you a bush scythe for cutting bushes and briars with.

J. F. Richardson
per H. A. Anderson

ed's note- Not so now, Mr. Richardson!

* * * *

SUPERINTENDENTS OFFICE

INDIANAPOLIS & CINCINNATI RAILROAD CO.

Cincinnati, O.
Feb. 16th. 1867

William McDermott
John Bause

It becomes necessary to reduce our force on the track. You will therefore only keep three (3) men on each section after this date.

I think we may dispense with watchmen- we must do the best we can with the above number of men for the present.

H. S. Chapin
Road Master

Even then it was necessary to reduce forces! We wonder what Mr. Chapin would think of the situation today. William McDermott was the section foreman at New Point. Letters by courtesy of Mrs. John F. Parmer of Chicago- ed.

Remember we are getting old! God grant that we not lose any of our members, at least in the ensuing year or near years.

Very kindly yours,

Frank Kluemper

The letter above, read at the Mechanicsburg School Reunion, typifies so well a day that has gone- what a day for a boy!-ed.

CHAFF!

STARS- Our Secretary is concerned about those who have not paid their 1963 dues. Should stars *** appear on the address label of your copy of the BULLETIN, you should consult with her at once.

* * * * *

OUR GROWING LIBRARY- "Art Work of Central Indiana" in nine parts, 1909, including twenty views of homes and locations in Decatur County, the gift of Mrs. Dexter Patrick, Greensburg.

THE LAST MEETING- Mr. Ray D. Patrick of Westport spoke on RAILROADS at the April meeting. The Big Four agent and operator there for many years, a good conversationalist and well versed in railroad lore, Mr. Patrick had no trouble in holding his audience. A question and answer period which followed was an interesting feature. President Jarrard presided for the first time- and he did very well too!

WE ARE FLATTERED! The serials section of THE INDIANA STATE LIBRARY requests they be placed on our mailing list, along with a further request for back numbers beginning with volume 1, number 1.

HILLFOREST HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, 213 Fifth St., Aurora, Indiana, has come out with a news-letter and announces the following coming events:

Sunday Oct. 20 @ 2:30 P. M.- Music of the Civil War and display
Thursday Nov. 21 @ 7:00 P.M.- ANGEL MOUNDS by Dr. Glenna Black
Dec. 13-14-15... Currier & Ives display (Travelers Ins. Co.)
Sunday Dec. 15 @ 3:00 P. M.- Annual Christmas Open House

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING- Our President announces that he has a top-flight speaker engaged for the latter part of January. Barring a bad night, it would seem that January might be a better time for this gala occasion, more so than in December, as in the past, with its crowded calendar.

WANTED-A picture each of Mrs. Eden Riley and Miss Vessie Riley, benefactors of the Society, for its files. Please reply to the editor of this paper.

MORE ABOUT THE TOUR- Meet at the Library at 2 P. M. and head East on Central Avenue. Watch at the street intersections....Keep a

proper interval. Once on the Concrete Road follow it to Clarksburg. Drive leisurely. Stop when you want to- but signal first. Bear in mind that most of the places as marked are only sites of the former homes of these early pioneers. We are told there are three "original" homes on the route. Can you pick them out? In some instances the road has been changed from its original location- from the creek beds and cow paths to the higher ground or even to the section line.... Note that the Hopkins house faces South- why? The tour should add something to the occasion. **DRIVE CAREFULLY! AND ENJOY IT. Bring your map with you!**

MEMBERSHIP- Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

SONG OF AN INLAND TOWN

Apropos of the flood of 1913

If I could write a poem like Jim Riley ust to write,
If I could ketch his rhymin' scheme in which the words unite
With a movin' kind o' music that'll start your sluggish blood--
I would sing a song of Greensburg where we didn't have no flood.
The scen'ry 'long ole Gas Creek don't compare with Brandywine,
And we're glad the bloomin' Wabash and Ohio, broad and fine,
And the other ragin' rivers are miles and miles away--
Ruther be an "inland town"---~~kind~~ o' like it thataway.

A little taste o' trouble 'mong our neighbors, left and right,
Helps us 'preciate our home town more'n oratory might.
When the trains are kind o' backward and we're missin' half our mail,
When the juice is off the cable and the rust is on the rail,
Then we realize the blessin's and the comfort's that we've got---
There may be places just as good, but there's heaps o' them that's not.
We hev counted all our noses and we've called our little roll.
And there's nary one a missin', not a single bloomin' soul.
Now the streams are in their channels and the trains are comin' back,
And the juice has hit the trolley and the rust is off the track.

-Smiley Fowler

We especially enjoyed this home-spun poem
by our good member Mr. Fowler, now in his
eightieth year- ed.

DECATUR CLARION
Orville Thomson, Editor
Greensburg, Indiana
Saturday, April 7, 1849

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE CASE

Below, the reader will find the evidence in the case of "The State vs. L. A. Donnell." The evidence for the prosecution was taken down by Mr. Ryman and that of the defence written out and agreed to by the parties after the verdict of the jury had been handed in.

The following gentlemen composed the Jury in the cause; and their place of residence is also attached:

William Magnus,	Marion township	
Louis F. N. Jocelyn,	"	"
M. Rutherford,	Sandcreek	"
Benj. Martin,	"	"
Wm. McNabb,	Washington	"
H. Lathrop,	"	"
Henry S. Burk	"	"
James Mandlove,	Clay	"
Angus Forbes,	"	"
Eli Douglas,	"	"
Philip Ballard,	Adams	"
David Misner,	"	"

The State of Indiana
vs.

Luther A. Donnell
IN THE DECATUR CIRCUIT COURT.
Indictment for Aiding And Abeting
In The Escape Of Slaves.

For the Prosecution: John S. Scobey
and Andrew Davison.
For the Defendant: John Ryman and
Joseph Robinson.

Evidence For The Prosecution.

Woodson Clark, being sworn says he saw a negro woman at the house of Geo. Ray, in Ky., does not know her name, does not know her age, she mi't be 25 or 30 years of age, she was tolerably large and fleshy, he saw her there last fall, does not know how often he saw her there, but saw her there often; thinks Ray lived nearer the Ohio ? ? ? ? She seemed to be acting as slaves act, she was waiting on the table at the house of Ray, she was engaged about his business.

He next saw the same woman, about 10 o'clock, on Monday, about the 1st of November, 1847, in this county; she had 4 children with her, they were all eating victuals. She was in a house on Mr. Peyton's farm, formerly occupied by Mr. Snelling.

The old house in which they were, was partly filled with hay. In passing along he heard a child cough, in the house, which attracted his attention, and he went in and found them there. This was about half a mile from defendant's house, it was some nearer his. Some of the children were girls, and the others, boys; the oldest was a girl, and about 12 years old and of a yellow complexion, the next a boy, about 8 or 9 years old, he thinks he was not quite as yellow as the girl; he does not know the ages or sexes of the other two. Witness called the woman Caroline, to which name she responded. When witness found her, he removed her and her children to a fodder house in the same neighborhood; it was done, however, by day-light.--Shortly afterwards, a negro man came to the house of witness. The negro woman and children remained in the fodder house nearly all night, at least they were gone next morning. He sent his son the day he found the negroes to tell Ray to come and get his negroes. In the morning of the next day about 3 o'clock, defendant came to the house of witness and waked him up; witness asked him who it was and what he wanted at that time of night. He answered that he was Luther A. Donnell, and that he wanted to see wit., whereupon he got up, when deft. informed him that he had a warrant to search his house for a woman and four children. There were three other men in company with him. Deft. said he had an officer with him to search the house, and I told him to search it if he had authority to do so; the officer's name was John Imley, a constable of that township. Deft. and one Robt. Hamilton searched the house, does not know whether the constable did or not. They did not find the negroes. Nothing was said about the color of the persons they were looking for. On the next day, in the evening, Ray came to the house of wit. and distributed a number of advertisements, for runaway negroes, for which he came in search, and which he said had runaway from him in Ky.

(We admit the advertisement, which the court permitted to be given in evidence to the jury.--Ed.)

When witness first discovered the woman, she appeared to be alarmed. When defendant left his house he said to Mr. Robt. Hamilton that the negroes were not there, but that he meant to have them, but that they were at one or the other of witness' house, all this took place in Decatur county. The fodder house was in this county, in the stable lot of Richard Clark. Peyton's family are all negroes, except himself, he is a white man. The negro who first came and inquired for the negroes was one of the Peyton family.

Richard Clark says he knows of there being a black woman and four children in a fodder house adjoining a lot, they were there about the first of November, 1849. They were taken there from the house of Woodson Clark, it was on Monday, they were in there from 2 o'clock, P. M., until sometime between 3 and 4 o'clock the next morning. They were taken out of there, as I took it to be, by Luther A. Donnell and William Hamilton. I was not so certain as to Hamilton as I was to Donnell, he was next to me and I thought I knew him. I saw the clothes of the man that I took to be Donnell, and also his face. The moon was shining, and was about an hour and a half high, in its ascending course. I was on the west side of the fence, and he east of me, on the other side of the fence. I heard a voice when they first went into the fodder house, where the woman and children were; I could not

understand what was said, nor co'd I tell whose voices I heard. The man whom I took to be Mr. Donnell passed within about ten feet of me perhaps less. I was looking through the crack of the fence to see who it was that took the negroes out.

I have been within something near a quarter of a mile of defendant for five years past; I am well acquainted with him, it was cool weather. Mr. Donnell generally wore a frock coat of Jeans, and a cap. The man that I took to be defendant had on such a coat and cap that night. I feel satisfied in my own mind that it was the defendant, but it might not have been him. When the persons who took the negroes from the fodder house, left there, they went a few yards in a southerly direction, they then got over the fence in the highway and went eastwardly along the road, some eighth of a mile, when they left the road and got over the fence into a woods pasture, which is the last I saw of them. From the place I last saw them, it was somewhere in the neighborhood of a mile to a settlement of negroes, and they were going on in that direction. The man, whom I took to be defendant, carried with him as they went away from the fodder house one of the small black children.

I am acquainted with George Ray, of Trimble co. Ky., he has been at my house and at my fathers, he says he lives in Kentucky. I do not know that he does. I saw Geo. Ray on the next Thursday after the woman and children were taken from the fodder house. He was on pursuit of runaway negroes. He left advertisements on the subject of runaway slaves. I talking with the said negro woman, I called her Caroling, to which name she answered.

Cross-examined by defendant.--Did you not tell Elisha Hobbs that you did not see defendant take the negroes away, but that you heard his voice?

Answer.--No, sir.

There was no timber to shade the light of the moon. It was not a cloudy morning, there were a few clouds, but it was nearly clear. Donnell's coat was a mixed grey color. I am sure that the negro woman did not come with the persons who took the negro family from the fodder house. I am sure that the negroes were taken away by two persons, neither of whom were black. I was the only person, to my knowledge, engaged there, that night, in watching the blacks. I was watching the blacks for their master, and thought it best not to say any thing to the persons who took them away. I did not tell William Thompson, on that morning, at my house, that the negroes had taken them away. I told a colored man that they were gone.--I did not state to defendant, in his corn field, a few days after the term of the court at which the Indictment was found, that I was perfectly satisfied that he was not the man that took the negroes away. I told him the same that I have stated here and that I was ? ? ? had seen I had been called before the grand jury on this case, I do not recollect of ever asking any pardon any way about it. Donnell wore a frock coat. Mr. Donnell lives right west of the fodder house. It was about an hour before day when the negroes were taken from the fodder house, which was and is in this county.

Peter Noah says that he is acquainted with defendant, that he had a conversation with defendant about a negro woman and children. I was living at defendant's house at the time, and it was at his house it took place, I think more than a year ago. In the evening, three negroes came to defendants and inquired for him, and he was not at home, they staid till after sun-down, and started and went off a little after dark, one of the negroes came back and inquired for defendant, and he had not come still.

Defendant told me that so soon as he came home, he went to Town and got a search warrant, and went to Clark's house and searched it. He told me how he had placed negroes around Clark's house and Dick Clark's house, and twixt father's house and old Jimmy Smiths to see what's going on, and that if it hadn't a been for him that the negroes would a been safe for their master.

He told me that he thought they ? ? ? ? ? to this here woman and children. The morning that the negroes were taken away, William Hamilton came to the house of defendant, and he and defendant said that they were going up to Clarksburg, and battle those men around that were on pursuit of negroes, till some other man could get them off. They both started off together towards Clarksburg. Defendant told me that he did not close his eyes that night until a half an hour before day-light. Does not know the day of the week.

John Imlay, sworn, says that in the fall of 1847, he went with defendant to the house of Woodson Clark, it was about three o'clock in the morning when they got there, he was at this time a Constable of Fugit Township in this county, he went there to serve a writ of habeas corpus. He gave the writ which purported to have been by the order of Judge Hopkins, one of the Judges of this court, to the defendant to be by him returned to the Judge.

Judge Hopkins, sworn, states that said writ was handed to him by some person who stated that it was the order of the constable that it should be returned to him, he, the judge, says he never gave it to the clerk, and supposes that it is among some of his papers, he rather thinks he made some search for it, but is not certain, he thinks that when he was summoned to appear as witness, he made search among his papers.

Imlay, again called, says that he had conversation with defendant on the occasion aforesaid. Defendant, when he came to the house of witness, said that he had a writ of habeas corpus which he wanted him to serve; I asked him how he came to know that there were negroes at the house of Clark. Defendant said that a colored man had told him so, that is, that there was a negro woman, and some children there; he also said that he had went to Greensburg and got out the writ to see if Mr. Clark was in lawful possession of them. Witness then went with defendant there, but did not search the house; Clark requested the writ read, and Robert Hamilton and myself read the writ, and thereupon Mr. Clark, Hamilton and Donnell went up stairs, and witness went out doors and does not know what was done by them.--Witness never saw the negro woman or children. After going out doors, he had a conversation with William Hamilton. After this I went with Mr. Clark to Clarksburg, and defendant and one of the Hamiltons were riding before us, in the same

direction, in hearing but not in sight. That was one of the ways to Richard Clarks, & the best way without going across Clark's farm. After we came to the road leading to defendant's house, I heard nothing more of them. The same road which goes to Richard Clarks, goes to defendant's house.--Does not know when he next saw defendant.

There were a number of colored persons about the house of Clark; they were there when we got there.

Cross-examined.--Witness thinks they were at Clark's, three-quarters of an hour, perhaps longer. When I last heard Hamilton and defendant on the road leading to Clarksburg, they were between one mile and three quarters of a mile from defendant's house.

It was a very dark night, and was dark when I last heard defendant and Hamilton and when I went to bed, and it must have been after four o'clock, A. M., when I went to bed. Does not know whether it was clear or cloudy, saw no moon that night. It did not seem as dark when I went to bed as it did when I got my horse out to go on said business but that may been occasioned by my having been out in the dark.

When we went to the door of Clark's house and knocked, Clark asked who was there; defendant answered, Luther Donnell. Clark then asked what he wanted; defendant said he wanted to talk with him or something to that effect; Mr. Clark then came to the door and asked defendant what he wanted to say; defendant answered that he had a writ there and an officer to serve it; Clark then invited us into the house, and he asked him what kind of writ ? ? ? ?

Witness does not know what became of the negro men that were about Mr. Clark's house, or where they went or what they done.

Re-examined by State--Says that he thinks they must have been at Mr. Clark's house three-quarters of an hour, went from there to Clarksburg, a distance of over one mile. It was not day-light when he went to bed. I recollect of noting the clock after a light was struck up in Mr. Clark's house, and it was after three o'clock.

George Ray, being called and sworn, says that in November, 1847, about 4 miles from Milton, in Trimble county, Ky., on Saturday, the last day of October, 1847, a negro woman and four children of mine, escaped from my home in Kentucky. The woman was black, large, fleshy woman, name Caroline, high cheek bones, with bold countenance. The oldest child, a yellow girl, named Francis, between 12 and 13 years old; the next was a yellow boy, named John, some 8 or 9 years old; the next was a yellow girl, named Manda, still younger than the boy; the next, a boy named Henry some 2 or 3 years old, rather darker than the others. I issued printed advertisements for said slaves. One of which he produced, which is as follows to-wit:

(We omitted advertisement.--Ed.)

He pursued the negroes on the next morning, and followed them to within a few miles of Greensburg, at which place he arrived on the evening of the following Monday, he went from there to Clarksburg on the same evening.--He was at the house of Woodson Clark on the morning of the following Wednesday. He is acquainted with said Clark. He had

a conversation with Mr. Clark. He made search for the negroes, in and about Clarksburg but could not find them, and has never seen them since. He left some of the advertisements in this county and one with Mr. Clark. He says he was the owner of the negroes, that the children were all born his, except the oldest one. The books from which extracts were given in evidence, he retained from the State as a justice of the peace as the property of the State. In pursuing the negroes from Madison to this place, he had them described to him several times, they were said to be travelling in a carriage.

John Hopkins, sworn, states that he had not a distinct recollection of what defendant said when he applied for the writ of habeas corpus. I know he applied for the writ, and some one of the company, I think Mr. Cyrus Hamilton, on being asked by me what wo'd be done if the negroes were slaves, said that he had been informed by counsel that an advertisement was not sufficient, that there should be a special agency. On reflection I think he said that it was Mr. Davidson who had given such advice.

Granville L. Kindred, called, says that he had a conversation with defendant about some negroes, sometime in the early part of 1846. Defendant told witness that one Dobbins had informed him that Ray was about to sue him for the negroes that had been run off and that witness knew something about it, I told defendant that Mr. Davidson had said so. I told defendant if I were in his place, at home, there would have been no difficulty, that I would have taken them back to Ray; defendant then said that he had always said I would not have had anything to do with the matter, that the children, or some of them, were nearly as white as defendant or myself.

(The counsel for the prosecution offered in evidence the Statutes of the State of Kentucky, allowing that Slavery does now exist there, and has ever since the organization of said State.)

EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE.

After the evidence on the part of the State was closed the Defendant, to sustain his issue, introduced as a witness

Robert A. Hamilton--who stated that somewhere about the 1st of November, 1847--he thinks on the 9th, but may be mistaken--the Defendant came to the house of witness' father and informed the witness that Woodson Clark had some negroes in his possession and stated that he was going to ? ? ? ? ? whether Clark had a right to them, and requested witness to go with him: that he, the witness, accordingly went with defendant: that they first went to Judge Hopkins, and obtained an order for the writ: they went from the residence of the Judge to Greensburg, and obtained the writ: and that they went from there to Clarksburg, and beyond there to the residence of Woodson Clark.

That on their way from Greensburg to Clarksburg they overtook some gentlemen, riding in same direction, viz: Joseph McKinney, and several others whom he did not know at the time--that he and defendant rode by them--that after passing them witness being apprehensive that those gentlemen were going to take said negroes and convey them away

without first establishing a claim to them, fell back into the company of said gentlemen, and the defendant rode on with the view to get the constable and serve the writ of habeas corpus: that his object in falling back was to prevent, if possible, those gentlemen from seizing the negroes before the writ could be served.

That he remained in the company of said gentlemen until they passed the house of Woodson Clark some distance--that he then turned back and went to the house of said Clark: that he got there about the same time that defendant and Imlay, the constable, did: that it was about 3 o'clock in the morning when they got to Clark's--he recollects noticing the clock after they went into the house and a light was made, and it was after 3 o'clock: that he and defendant went up stairs and thro' the house in search of the negroes--that after searching they became satisfied they were not there, and gave up the search: that it was so dark that morning that the face of one man could not, in his opinion, be distinguished from another the distance of ten feet.

When he left Mr. Clark's he went home: that he rode from Clark's on his way home a short distance in company with Wm. Hamilton and defendant--that he then left them and rode home fast, in order to get some rest, having been up all night: that he got home, which is some seven miles from Mr. W. Clark's, just at day light: and that they were at Clarks about three-fourths of an hour.

When he left there, he had no idea where the negroes were, nor does he know that defendant had. Defendant said nothing in his hearing to indicate that he had any idea where they were. When he left defendant and Wm. Hamilton they were traveling in the direction of defendant's residence, and that Richard Clark lives in the same direction: that defendant in going the road from W. Clark's to his residence passes the house of Richard Clark--that the distance from Woodson to Richard Clark's is one-and-a-half to two miles. On the way home he passed by the residence of defendant...he left defendant and Wm. Hamilton simply because he had further to go and was anxious to get home.

Defendant said nothing to indicate that he intended to make further search for the negroes. It was a little after dark when defendant came to get witness to go with him on said business.

(The defendant then introduced a number of witnesses, who stated that Peter Noah was a man of bad reputation, and not entitled to credit; but the evidence on the part of defendant was met by testimony from the other side, in support of the credit of the witness.

Defendant also introduced one

James Hobbs--who stated that on the morning that the negroes were said to have been taken from the fodder house of Richard Clark, about 7 or 8 o'clock, he saw two negro men with a woman of color and some colored children moving off on horse back rapidly, in an eastwardly direction, that they were about 4 miles east of Rich. Clark's on the road to Metamora, that the same day, in the afternoon, he again saw them beyond Whitewater river, about ten miles from Clarksburg, that

they were still traveling eastwardly and on horseback, that he knew the men but not the woman and children, that the names of the negro men were Chase and White. Defendant also introduced

Logan Peery--who also stated that on said day he saw said negro man with said women and children about 9 miles east of Clark's traveling in the same manner and in the same direction. Defendant also introduced one

Jackson G. Braden--who stated that at the time said negroes were said to have been taken from the said fodder house, he was living with the defendant, that on the evening before they were said to have been taken away, or on the evening of the night that they were said to have been taken away, defendant left home and went, as he said, to Greensburg to get a writ to take the negroes; that he saw nothing more of him after he started until about one and a half hours before day, that just about that time before the break of day, defendant called him up and directed him to build fires and then wake the girls, that defendant then went to bed and slept until day-light, that he knows the defendant was not up from the time that he laid down until day light, as he was in the same room that defendant slept, that defendant had put up his horse before he waked up the witness; that Peter Noah and another stranger took breakfast at defendant's that morning, defendant took breakfast at home with his family, and that he did not leave home before breakfast, that he does not remember what the defendant done, or where he went on the following day, that some time in the morning he started from home towards Clarksburg. It was also further proved that William Hamilton was now a resident of this county, which was all the evidence in the cause, and on which the defendant was found guilty by the jury.

(On Friday morning Mr. Ryman, on behalf of the defence, moved the Court to set aside the verdict, on the ground that it was not in accordance with the evidence, and to grant a new trial. The Court, however, refused to sustain the motion, and judgment was accordingly rendered against Defendant for the fine and costs.)

Underground Rail Role of Fugit Is Told

The role of Fugit township in the "Underground Railroad" during pre-Civil War years was described to members of the Decatur County Historical Society by Mrs. Charles H. Morrish Sunday afternoon.

The program was held in the social hall of the Kingston Presbyterian church as the culmination of the fifth annual tour by historical society members. Nearly 150 attended the program in the church. The motorcade embraced 25 automobiles.

Mrs. Morrish pointed out that there was strong anti-slavery sentiment in Fugit township, especially in the Kingston and Clarksburg communities. Members of the Donnell and Hamilton families were active in aiding escaped slaves, Mrs. Morrish stated.

One of the stations was on the Luther A. Donnell farm, the speaker said. Fleeing slaves were housed at this and other stations during daytime and were taken through the woods at night. Some of the slaves and members of their families died during their efforts to escape. This is evidenced, according to Mrs. Morrish, by the fact that there is a small cemetery known as "Africa" east of Clarksburg.

Mrs. Morrish stated that one of the most important trials during that period was against Luther A. Donnell, charged with aiding and abetting the escape of slaves.

Historic Homes

Mrs. Morrish also described historic homes and places of interest which members of the historical society passed during their tour.

Fugit

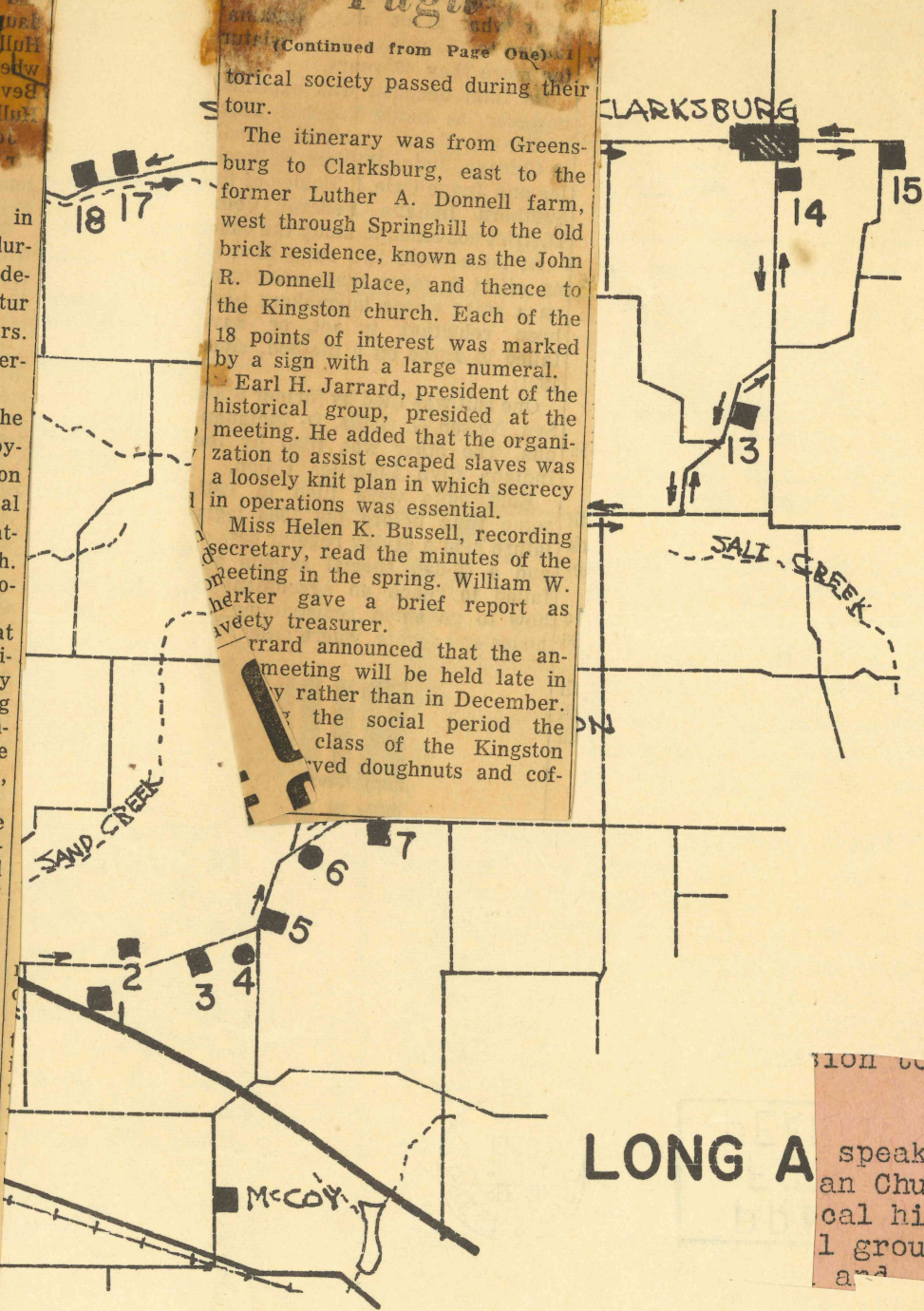
(Continued from Page One)

The itinerary was from Greensburg to Clarksburg, east to the former Luther A. Donnell farm, west through Springhill to the old brick residence, known as the John R. Donnell place, and thence to the Kingston church. Each of the 18 points of interest was marked by a sign with a large numeral.

Earl H. Jarrard, president of the historical group, presided at the meeting. He added that the organization to assist escaped slaves was a loosely knit plan in which secrecy in operations was essential.

Miss Helen K. Bussell, recording secretary, read the minutes of the meeting in the spring. William W. Barker gave a brief report as society treasurer.

Jarrard announced that the annual meeting will be held late in May rather than in December. During the social period the class of the Kingston served doughnuts and coffee.



LONG A

speaking at an Church historical society meeting. The tour was a well-organized and successful one.

- 1) Old Hopkins place (far right)
- 2) Antrobus (frame-Rudolph)
- 3) Marshall Hamilton (Jackson)
- 4) Toll gate & road to McCoy
- 5) Robt. A. Hamilton (Auburn Hill)
- 6) The Boulder (monument)
- 7) Lowrey Hamilton (l. McCoy)
- 8) Cyrus Hamilton (Erle Hamilton)
- 9) Thos. & Squire Hamilton (dravis)
- 10) Hood Hamilton (Ralph Donnell)
- 11) Sam'l. & J.C. Donnell
- 12) Orlando Hamilton
- 13) Ardery place (Everett Hamilton)
- 14) William Hamilton (abandoned)
- 15) Luther A. Donnell (Fee)
- 16) First store & P.O.
- 17) John R. Donnell (frame)
- 18) Thos. Donnell (brick)

(Continued on Page Six)

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 1 - No. 17

Greensburg, Indiana

March 23, 1963

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

A native of Clarksburg
Graduate of DePauw University
Practicing attorney
City Judge
After-dinner speaker
Able
Affable

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Gladys Aldrich is retiring as a registered nurse in Indianapolis to return to her beloved Greensburg come March 31st. See INDIANAPOLIS NEWS of March 20th. for the complete story.....Helen Bussell, our very efficient recording secretary, is currently on a cruise. Auckland, Papeete and Sydney are stops on her itinerary.....Harold Damsgard, here for a short time with the Garland Mill, a Civil War buff and for this correspondent--"a gentleman and a scholar," is a Director and Secretary-Treasurer of the Tennessee Valley Historical Society, located at Sheffield, Alabama.... Robert Dale Hall of Green Bay, Wisconsin, a Greensburg boy, visited here recently. He practices there the profession of land surveying. He states that he enjoys and looks forward to receiving his copy of the BULLETIN.....FOUR SQUARE LINES--QUATRAINS, nicely illustrated by Smiley Fowler and dedicated to him, is the latest work of Grant Henderson. They are too new for general acclaim; however they grow on you. Soon for sale on all newsstands..... POEMS OF WILLIAM O. THOMSON is the title of a collection of his poems, and a gift to the Society. Outstanding both for their content and the attractive manner in which the little volume is gotten

OCCASION: Spring meeting.
SPEAKER: Mr. Ray D. Patrick
TIME: 8:00 P. M. Greensburg Time
PLACE: Kemble Room,
Greensburg Methodist Church, N. Broadway
DATE: Friday, April 19, 1963

Mr. Patrick, long-time Big Four agent and telegraph operator at Letts and Westport, comes to us with his stories and experiences of a lifetime spent with the railroad. His subject is a fascinating one and it takes Ray Patrick, loved and respected by all who know him, to tell this story. Retired, he lives at Westport not too far from the rails that have been an integral part of his life. ALL ABOARD!

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU WISH!
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Kathleen Gatewood
Mr. Warren Bruner-Indianapolis
Mrs. Warren Bruner-Indianapolis
Miss Florence L. Zoller-Chicago
Mrs. Stanton Kirk
Mrs. Arthur Glass
Mr. Virgil E. Davis-Brookville
Mrs. Glendora Harrison
Mrs. Lloyd Colee
Mrs. Thomas Cookson-Bloomington
Mr. C. Ted Barnes
Mrs. C. Ted Barnes
Miss Nancy Faulkner
Mr. V. T. Peek
Mr. Earl S. Fisher
Mrs. Leona O. Fisher
Mr. Wm. O. Thomson-Boston
Miss Mabel L. Pumphrey

together, we are pleased to present elsewhere in this issue, one of the gems. We know that you will enjoy it.

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1963

President-----Earl H. Jarrard
 1st. Vice-President-----Walter B. Lowe
 2nd. Vice-President-Mrs. Dorothy Doles
 Corresponding Secy.----Mrs. Chas. Loucks, 131 W. Central Ave. Greensburg, Indiana
 Recording Secy.-----Miss Helen K. Bussell, 711 N. East St. Greensburg, Indiana
 Treasurer-----William Parker
 Editor - THE BULLETIN-----Paul H. Huber

WHO REMEMBERS?

A copy of THE BUDGET published at Clarksburg dated Sept. 14, 1917 - Vol. IX-No. 11 lists the following as advertisers of that day-

C. L. Brown-GENERAL BLACKSMITHING
 Elmer E. Whitten-CARRIAGE AND SIGN PAINTER
 Ferman Linville--TONSorial PARLOR
 Bert J. Cooper---VETERINARY SURGEON
 H. J. Border-----THE BAKERY
 Jas. B. Clark----FAIRVIEW STABLES
 Frank Morgan-----CONTRACTOR and BUILDER
 A. C. Schumm-----SCHOOL BOOKS
 H. H. Russell----GENL. MCHDSE.
 H. C. Doles & Son--HDWE.
 Doby's Store----MASON JARS. POP ON ICE. FRESH MEAT-FRI. & SAT.
 Fred Lampe-----SHOES. EL VAM-PIRO FLY KILLER. SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

THE BUDGET was published weekly by C. G. McCracken - Editor and Publisher. Subscription Price - 50 cents per year. Its slogan - AMERICA FIRST & ALWAYS!

"What is Past is Prologue"

100 YEARS AGO COME JULY

Hoosiers fought the Civil War on home ground in July 1863, when about 3,000 Confederate cavalymen, led by General John Hunt Morgan, made a 200-mile foray through Southern Indiana.

More than 65,000 men were enlisted to repel Morgan's raiders before they fled the state at West Harrison in Dearborn County.

The invaders crossed the Ohio River at Mauckport, in Harrison County, and rode to Corydon, site of the first state capitol. The town surrendered after a battle in which eight raiders and three home guards were killed.

The raiders then rode northward through Palmyra and Salem, eastward to Vienna and Lexington and on to Vernon, where more than 1,000 defenders were awaiting them. There was no battle, although guards mistook some cattle for Morgan's men during the night and fired on them in what later was dubbed the "Battle of Finney's Ford."

The Confederates' foray, which never took them more than 30 miles from the Ohio River, then continued to Versailles, Hubbell's Corner, New Alsace, Dover, Logan and finally to West Harrison. The raiders fled into Ohio after burning the Whitewater Bridge behind them.

The Confederate leader later was captured. He escaped, but was killed in 1864 in a battle in the South.

-INDIANA ALMANAC

MEMBERSHIP

Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

THE BIG FOUR RAILROAD IN INDIANA

Progress was reported in the SENTINEL, October 14, 1852, as follows:

Twelve miles of track is laid down and now in use and four miles more will be completed in a few days. The board confidently expects to complete the road to Greensburg, 42 miles, by the first of January, and to complete the whole line 12 months from this time.

Not a great deal of publicity was given the later progress of the road until it was completed, though two quotations from LOCOMOTIVE during 1853 may be of interest in showing the progress of the work:

May 21, 1853:

They have commenced laying the track on the Lawrenceburg and Indianapolis (newspapers frequently persisted in referring to the company by the name of the old company instead of by the correct name of Lawrenceburg and Upper Mississippi) both here and at Shelbyville. By the 4th of July persons can take the cars for Louisville at this place and arrive there by way of Shelbyville and Edinburg in about 5 hours.

May 28, 1853:

The cars on the Lawrenceburg and Indianapolis railroad are now run into the depot at Greensburg, 42 miles from Lawrenceburg, and 46 miles from this city. They are laying iron at four points on this road--from Greensburg, from Shelbyville both ways, and from this city. This will leave about $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles of track to lay for each set of hands, and as the iron is at hand, the bridges and cross-ties about ready, there will be but little delay. With good luck the cars will run from this city to Lawrenceburg early in July.

The line was not completed, however, until several months later. The Indianapolis JOURNAL, November 1, 1853, speaks of the "first train having passed through yesterday." The same issue says that

citizens may dine before starting; the time for the departure of the regular mail train daily (Sundays excepted) is fixed at 1 o'clock P. M., which will enable passengers to arrive in Cincinnati early in the evening after taking supper aboard the boat. We understand that ample and efficient arrangements are in progress for a prompt transportation of freight.

The following advertisement was published in the papers at the time:

NEW ROUTE TO CINCINNATI

The Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad connecting with the company's fast steamer Forrest Queen at Lawrenceburg

commences running this day, November 1, 1853. Train leaves 1 P. M., arrives at Cincinnati 7 P. M., at foot of Main Street. Boat leaves Main Street at 6 A. M. Cars arrive at Indianapolis 12 M. Fare \$3.00.

George Haven, Supt.

* * * * *

The Columbus, Hope and Greensburg was incorporated originally as the Hope and Greensburg railroad in 1880. According to the original articles of incorporation there were nine directors, all of them men along the route--William Foley, Warren B. Wilson, William A. Moore, George W. Ewing, Buckner B. Jones, Simeon Stapp, William H. Aiken, Granville T. Rominger and Arthur Gailbreth. The capital stock was fixed at \$125,000. The company never built any road until after the name was changed to the Columbus, Hope and Greensburg by vote of the directors, January 17, 1881. It surveyed its line in 1882, including a stretch of about ten miles out of Greensburg already graded by the defunct Cincinnati and Terre Haute about ten years before, to which it secured a quitclaim deed in 1892. It was built in 1883-4, and opened to traffic May 5, 1884; and it has been operated all its life by either the C. I. St. L. & C. or the Big Four, which now own a controlling interest in it. According to Poor's Manual of Railroads for 1884, its building was financed by capital stock to the amount of \$275,000 six per cent first mortgage bonds in the same sum; and the officers were John E. Robbins, president; Cortez Ewing, vice-president, and W. I. Lucas, treasurer, all of Greensburg. "My father helped survey the line," said Raymond Ridgley, in charge of the stock of locomotive steel castings at Beech Grove,

and I can remember the date it was built, 1883, because I was born that year. The road was a typical jerkwater road when I was a boy, and you could never depend on the trains. I never expected then that it would be in existence when I got married; but now I am happily married and the road is prospering.

* * * * *

Meanwhile, a road was being built from North Vernon to Rushville, called the Vernon, Greensburg and Rushville. It was incorporated July 11, 1879, with a capital stock of \$400,000 with the "privilege of increasing same if deemed necessary to \$500,000." It was financed almost entirely by local capital, and no subscription of over \$3,500 appears on the articles of incorporation. There were thirteen directors, John E. Robbins, William W. Hamilton, James M. Davis, Daniel Bacon, Antrim R. Forsyth, Hagerman Tripp, Will Cumback (famous in politics and literature), Cortez Ewing, Leonidas Sexton, George B. Elston, John Meek, Thomas Shaw, and Henry C. Miller. Practically all these men lived in North Vernon, Greensburg and Rushville. The subscriptions were taken up to a degree that the company was

able on December 15, to let the contract for the entire work of putting the road in readiness for the cars.

Col. Horace Scott of Louisville, was awarded the contract, and the road was opened to Greensburg, April 15, 1880, and Rushville, September 10, 1880.

ed's note - The excerpts above are from an article by Ared Maurice Murphy in the INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY - Double Number June and September, 1925. Mr. Paul Hamilton has our sincere thanks for his kindness in lending us this interesting material.

INDIANA RAILWAY MUSEUM OF DECATUR COUNTY, INCORPORATED

When were you a youngster? 1920? 1940? 1900? 1880? Chances are that whenever it was, you have a big place in your memories for a train. Did you ride on it to college? Did you ride the interurban to Greensburg to High School? Did you take coffee and doughnuts to the troop train when it stopped over in Greensburg for water and coal? Or were you a passenger on it, waiting in some other town? Did you leave for your honeymoon on a train? Can you remember how you always felt as if you were moving instead of the train, when it started up? Have you ever heard your grandparents tell you about the first trains in Decatur County? Have you ever had your children ask for an "old fashioned train for Christmas and find out that they wanted a 1950 type steam locomotive? Did you see the Thomas Edison classic motion picture, "The Great Train Robbery," the great-grand-daddy of all adventure movies and T V thrillers?

If you can answer, yes, to any of these questions, then you will probably be interested in the Indiana Railway Museum of Decatur County, Incorporated. It has been formed for the purpose of restoring, preserving, displaying, and operating historical railway equipment items. The museum is located at Westport, where the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, & Pacific railroad company abandoned its tracks to Seymour. Since the chance to buy a railroad comes rarely, this was a unique opportunity for Decatur County.

At the present time the museum's inventory is as follows:

One and one-fourth miles of right-of-way, including the trestle which can be seen from State Road 3.

Four thousand feet of which is laid to usable track.

A Baldwin (0-4-OT) steam locomotive, 1936, originally coal fired, now converted to oil. This is owned jointly with the Indiana Museum of Transport and Communication.

A 1907 interurban car from the Chicago, Aurora, & Elgin, equipped to run by overhead trolley or third rail. This is now owned by Frank Jessup.

A one-man maintenance car, commonly known as a "put-put," powered by a one-cylinder horizontal gasoline motor, enabling it to run forward and reverse.

Two watchman shanties, recently abandoned by the New York Central at East and Franklin Street crossings in Greensburg.

An old building of uncertain use from West Washington Street, near the interurban line.

This is an operating museum, which means that it has facilities for moving the heavy pieces of equipment, such as engines and railroad cars. Most museums are not equipped to handle moving cars. This is a prime asset of the Indiana museum. Another is the approximately two-thousand feet of right-of-way which can be laid to track.

A difficulty the museum has been up against, is the fact that railroads have been abandoning their heavy equipment right and left in a nationwide changeover to diesel power, during the past few years. It is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire the steam pieces. Most railroad companies are willing to sell to a museum at less than junk value. But it is hard for museums to get sufficient donations to purchase equipment, although sometimes they are fortunately able to find someone to buy the major items until the museum can pay for them.

This is a statewide organization, but quite naturally, most of the maintenance work is done by local members. It takes lots of elbow grease, and motor grease, to keep tracks and machinery in working order. Most of it is manual labor. They have all of the problems of a major railroad (except the huge taxes)!

The museum has accomplished a lot in the two years of its existence. The members have two objectives in mind. To preserve historic railroad equipment and mementos for the benefit of rail fans; and to provide a place where children, who have never seen steam trains and trolleys, can see, hear, and smell them - firsthand! While the early towns of Indiana were settled near the waterways, the towns from 1840 on, were established by the railroads. The railroad has a definite important role in Decatur County history.

The locomotive pulled the trolley car on Sundays and holidays last season for a thrilling but smooth ride. Plans are to continue the same policy this summer.

Why don't you go by the museum to ride the trolley car and inspect the engine and premises for yourself? - Then tell your friends that Decatur County is the home of a thriving, promising railroad museum.

The following help is welcomed by the Indiana Railway Museum of Decatur County, Incorporated:

Any kind of rail equipment or mementos
Work crews
Qualified steam operators
Refreshments during work sessions
MEMBERSHIPS - \$5.00 per year, operating; \$2.50, associate.

Contact: John Paul Taylor, R. R. 1, Greensburg
Frank Jessup, Westport
Don Montgomery, R. R. 3, Greensburg
Robert Dale Brown, R. R. 1, St. Paul

HISTORY OF THE NEW LITTLE FLATROCK BAPTIST CHURCH (STAR CHURCH)

The Little Flatrock Baptist Church was organized on the first Saturday in March, 1870, by twelve members of the community. They were former members of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church when it was situated on the South bank of Clifty Creek near the old Michigan Trail, now U. S. 421. They had withdrawn from Mt. Moriah in 1865 when that church had combined with Mt. Hebron which was three miles further south on Clifty. The two had united their memberships and torn down the Mt. Moriah building to make a new church in the village of Adams. Faced with the loss of their meeting-house at Mt. Moriah, the people of the community met in each other's homes until 1870, when they chartered and built the church.

The building was of brick, donated by John Shelhorn, Jr., and built on land that he gave from his farm. This farm was the first land sold in Decatur County in 1820, after the Indian Treaty was signed, making this territory open for settlement.

The original church was the present main room without the rostrum or back alcove. The doors were on the west side where the smaller windows are at the present time. Clear glass windows were along the two long walls, three on each side.

The church ground was beside the cemetery used by the community since the earliest days of settlement. The Cemetery Association is today a separate organization from the church, although the annual Memorial Day Cemetery Association meeting was once the big get-together time for the church. A Revolutionary War soldier from Massachusetts, Samuel Lovejoy, who came to Indiana in the early days with his relatives was buried in the cemetery in 1822.

Many churches in this county have been split asunder over such issues as slavery and temperance. Much of the troubles of the Adams churches had been over temperance. Star Church was closed once because some of the members thought that others were "out of the fellowship," going to the wrong kind of parties and the organist was rumored to have played for dances! A crepe was hung on the door. This was the sign of a death in the family in those days (1890's). The records were burned. The church was dead!

Some of the members went to other churches, but gradually returned to Star and by 1905 had begun a vigorous remodeling and reorganizing program. The stained-glass windows, pews, alcove, rostrum, belfry, bell, front steps, new floors, and back room were added then. At this time the "New" was added to the official name of Little Flatrock Church. The Sunday School was reorganized in the Deem schoolhouse while the church was being redone.

The church bell was hauled in by wagon from the railroad. It had to be pulled up into the belfry by real "horsepower." It was rung March 23rd, 1907, for the first time - but - the lady architect thought that the tone was too much like a dinner bell - so - the men took it down, hauled it back and went through the whole thing again in May. This bell is famous for its sound and is said to be the only one

of its kind. The next time you hear the sweet, clear tones of the bell, remember that it is a living monument to those people who worked very hard to build a fine church, many years ago.

By this time, the roads leading to the church were the same as today. But not too long before the turn of the century, the only roads followed the banks of the rivers or took off cross-country between settlements. Before the stone bridge was built across Little Flatrock, just east of the church, everyone (except those coming from the north) had to follow the roads beside the winding rivers into Downeyville, and through the ford there, to eventually leave the horses and rigs at the base of the hill and walk up the path to the church. (Hence Star Church came to be known as the "church on the hill") A ten-minute intermission between church and Sunday School services enabled the men to go see about the horses. High water would keep the rigs in Downeyville while the members walked across the foot bridge and up the path past the "baptismal hole." Severe floods kept all from reaching the church. The people would often leave the church after services, singing hymns as they were walking down the hill to their horses, or back to Downeyville.

The twelve original members of New Little Flatrock Baptist Church were Lewis Shelhorn, Hilinda Shelhorn, David Wallace Shelhorn, Mary Louisa Shelhorn, Samuel Shelhorn, Eliza Shelhorn, Elizabeth Shelhorn, Mary Snickler, H. L. Doggett, Emily Doggett, B. W. Stogsdill, and A. A. Stogsdill. John Shelhorn is not listed as an original member, but he was the major contributor and was later a member.

Taken from the History compiled for the Homecoming, September, 1962, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dale Brown, with the help of Mr. Joe Shelhorn.

THE LAST MEETING

The annual dinner meeting held in December, for the one hundred fifty attending, is now a matter of history. However for the out-of-town members, we, always aware of their interest and their loyalty, offer this bit in retrospect. The meeting was a success. First, everyone had enough to eat--this isn't always true of banquets. The food was excellent and well served. The table decorations were in good taste and suggestive of the Christmas season. For those responsible for the meeting, the satisfaction of having done a good job well, is theirs--they would want no other reward.

Those present were given an opportunity to renew their membership for the coming year and most everyone did so--some for two years in advance. Further evidence of the success of the affair was the way that the members lingered on--long after the festivities were over--to visit and reminisce about other times. Mr. Herrod Carr, attorney for the Riley estate, spoke briefly of Miss Vessie Riley, the last of her family and a benefactor of the Society.

The speaker of the evening was Virgil E. Davis of the History Department of Brookville High School. No meeting of this kind in Franklin County is held without Mr. Davis in attendance. A gifted

speaker and knowing whereof he spoke, he rose to the occasion. Franklin County has had more than its share of noted men and women, and it was these that Mr. Davis brought out of history and presented to his audience. The part that the Brookville Land Office played in our development and the migration of men like Will Cumback and others to Decatur County was traced. His closing remark--an invitation "to come see him sometime" is typical of Virgil E. Davis, and left us all with the feeling that he is our kind of people.

For you out-of-state members, for whom there is nothing but an occasional BULLETIN from home--you members from Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Wisconsin--it is our sincere wish that you might have attended and enjoyed the occasion. However yours, if nothing else, is the heritage of being a native of Decatur County and a member of a fine organization--so devoid of commercialism, assessments, promotion and the like. Bless you!

The meeting closed with the election of officers. Mr. Earl H. Jarrard was elected president for the coming year and the remainder of the other officers were carried over. The choice couldn't have been better.

THE LIV'RY STABLE

by William O. Thomson

The town where I was born and raised,
To boast of size unable,
Had one component highly praised,--
A first-class liv'ry stable.

If you were not acquainted there,
To tell you I am able
Of how it stood on court-house square,--
A red brick liv'ry stable.

The building loomed two stories high,--
A port-hole in the gable
Through which the swallows used to fly
To nests in liv'ry stable.

The stately portals, high and wide,
With sliding doors, gigantic,
Took in a steady equine tide
In two-way lanes of traffic.

It held a status all its own
In up-to-date appliance,
Equipped with every patent known
To liv'ry stable science.

A gangway ran the center through
With stalls and bins abutting,--
A line of flanks, in lax review,
Into the open jutting.

The floor was laid in wooden block,--
An ultra-classic feature
That rendered nil all noise and shock
From steel-shod hoof of creature.

From loft above came wafting down
Whiffs of fragrant timothy,--
A protein fare of far renown,
To build equine symmetry.

Within a nook, from view shut off,
Its bubbling flow unbroken,
Held forth the trusty water trough,--
A work in planking, oaken.

A bin of oats stood fortified
Against all foul invasion;
Sometimes a rat would sneak inside,--
A most profound occasion.

Midway the line, a bulging rick,
Its bulky bales aglitter,
Supplied all inmates, Tom and Dick,
With beds of golden litter.

Within a chamber, amidships,
Base-burner in the center,
Hung blankets, robes and buggy whips,--
A treasure-house to enter.

The stable's single-harness stock
Was spirited and gallant.
To keep it fit around the clock
Required a special talent.

For lazy bones it was no place;
Hands were fast and capable;
A bloke called Fatty set the pace
Around the liv'ry stable.

Fat was, for better or for worse,
For all things accountable;
At funerals he drove the hearse,--
The envy of the stable.

A funeral was an event
That taxed the liv'ry stable;
With each turnout a driver went,--
A ride most enjoyable.

Processions then were long drawn out.--
Headed by the village band.
Liv'ry teams would prance about;
Drivers held them well in hand.

When older folk were laid to rest
A team as black as sable,
With hearse in somber mourning dressed,
Drew out from liv'ry stable.

There was, to lay away the young,
Motif, white, available;
As if it had from white swans sprung;
Pride of the liv'ry stable.

To drummers often rigs were let,
Serving rural clientelles;
But what was more productive yet,--
Lads who courted village belles.

A paying source of revenue
Was keeping weekly boarders;
Belonged to people, well-to-do;
Held subject to their orders.

The country swains, in rigs replete
With frills of latest fashions,
When they drove to the county seat,
Put up their steeds for rations.

The older farmers held in scorn
The liv'ry stable forage
And brought full feed of yellow corn
Out of their country storage.

If you'd drive in the barn and say,
"Put up this nag and feed it,"
The project would be underway
Almost before you'd heed it.

The hold-back straps they'd first unsnap,
And then let go the traces
And loop 'em through the britchen strap;
Do reins up in their places.

Then one would lead the critter out,
First to water, then to stall;
Another'd push the rig about
Into shed, against the wall.

The shed would fill up in a flash,
Come a Democrat rally;
Then, each rig numbered on the dash,
They'd line the street and alley.

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As loafin' place par excellence
None was more hospitable;
Always found congenial gents
Around the liv'ry stable.

A cauldron of the latest news,
Equal to tower of Babel;
You'd miss nobody's recent views
Hangin' around the stable.

In winter in the robe-room sit,
Big stove makin' heat galore;
A saw-dust box close by it
Beat any brass cuspidor.

The hickory chairs lined up outside
In weather permittable;
You'd rest at ease while time and tide
Flowed by the liv'ry stable.

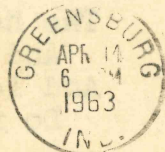
Once I didn't come home to sup;
With vituals on the table
Ma sent Dad out to hunt me up;
Found me at liv'ry stable.

When I got home my Ma arose;
I was undesirable
Till I went off and changed my clothes;
I smelled of liv'ry stable.

Once in a while I drift back home,
Like lost sheep in the fable
And round about the town I roam,
Lookin' for liv'ry stable.

The building stands in proper place,--
A fact undebatable.
Aside from this I find no trace
Of old-time liv'ry stable.

Machines into its portals pass;
It bears a foreign label;
An odor strong of oil and gas
Comes from the liv'ry stable.



159 Mr. Orville Pitts
R.R. 1
Greensburg, Ind.